

## Kingfish 8 (KIN8) West coast North Island fishery

# DRAFT SUBMISSION

### Current Management

**Table 1:** TAC (tonnes), TACC (tonnes), catch (tonnes), catch YTD (tonnes), and deemed value liability (\$) for 2003-04

Kingfish stock	TAC	TACC	Catch 2003-04	Catch YTD	Deemed Value Liability 2003-04 (\$)
KIN 1	673	91	48.5		2 638
KIN 2	170	63	50.2	29	968
KIN 3	3	1			
KIN 4	3	1			
KIN 7	21	7	3	1.3	819
KIN 8	83	36	57.1	34.5	307 345
KIN 10	2	1			

### MFish recommends that:

- a) Kingfish is listed as a species on the Sixth Schedule of the Fisheries Act 1996 to allow kingfish to be released to the sea, subject to the condition that fish are
  - i. not taken by the method of set netting;
  - ii. likely to survive;
  - iii. returned to the same waters from which they are taken;
  - iv. returned as soon as practical; and returned catch is recorded and reported on catch and effort forms using an appropriate code.
- b) A code of conduct is developed to allow ready identification of kingfish likely to survive release and to guide their handling.

### option4 submits that:

1. We are pleased that the Ministry of Fisheries are acknowledging a problem in KIN8 and are looking to them to address the overcatch of kingfish by the commercial sector.

2. option4 continues to support the inclusion of kingfish on the Sixth Schedule to allow the return of live kingfish to the water.
3. Our support for the inclusion of kingfish on the Sixth Schedule is conditional on the understanding that every effort is made to ensure released kingfish are likely to survive.
4. We consider it essential that commercial fishers develop and actively follow a code of conduct that will allow ready identification of kingfish that are likely to survive when released.
5. Initially this code of conduct will require some independent monitoring to determine whether the urgency required to ensure the survival of kingfish can in fact be given sufficient priority by the crews aboard fishing vessels when landing catches.
6. If commercial fishers are found to not be complying to the Sixth Schedule requirements, or the code is unable to deliver the desired outcomes, then other management controls must be devised and implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries.